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### NEW CLOTHES FROM OLD

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How to make a good appearance with little or no money to spend for clothes -- there's the problem of hundreds of women today. We don't ask for new dresses; we're glad to make the old ones do. But we'd like to know how to freshen up the worn, faded, and short garments of two or three years past so that we don't look too different from everybody else. For there's a definite feeling of confidence and well-being when one knows one's clothes will at least "pass in a crowd." And even more insistent than our own wardrobe problem is that of making the children presentable to go to school.

In a number of states extension workers among farm women are helping with the clothing problem in an interesting way. It can be done by almost any group of women who can sew, and some who have yet to learn how to use patterns and run a sewing machine might take their first lessons with such a group. The idea is to hold a "clothing clinic" where outmoded garments can be brought, their faults "diagnosed" and remodeling treatment "prescribed". Sometimes a meeting like this lasts all day, each woman bringing one dress to work on after its possibilities have been discussed. Those who belong to rural home demonstration clubs generally have a local leader, and before the clinic is held she has had an opportunity to go to a short training class with representatives of other communities. The county home demonstration agent, often with the help of the State clothing specialist, conducts a model "clothing clinic" for these leaders and provides them with a great many suggestions to take back to their own groups. A few up-to-date patterns that can be easily adapted are shown and when the local leader meets her community club she arranges to get one or two of these to be used and shared.

If you live in a town or do not belong to a farm woman's club there is no





reason why you and some of your friends could not get up a "clothing clinic", with a committee of the most expert sewers to act as leaders. An all day meeting with a sociable lunch at noon can be lots of fun and mutually helpful. Even if you only work on one garment at the meeting you go home with many inspirations for other old dresses after seeing what your neighbors can do with their problem clothes.

Of course remodeling pays only when the fabric itself will stand plenty of future wear. It's always a pity to put time and effort into worthless material. This year's styles permit you to combine plain good with print, or two colors in the same fabric, or two fabrics of the same or contrasting color. So it often happens that with help from the piece box, or by putting two old garments together, one up-to-date dress can be evolved. Again, strong but faded fabric may be dyed before it is made over. And many an adult garment that appears hopeless can be cut down for one of the children. Men's trousers and suits will often make durable school coat or knickers for the smaller children.

Here are some remodeling possibilities frequently mentioned in extension reports to the U.S. Department of Agriculture:

You can make a short dress longer in several ways. Cut off the upper part of the bodice in an irregular line -- diagonally, in points, or some other decorative effect, and drop the dress as much as necessary. Cut a new upper bodice from the same or contrasting material. Refit the dress at the waist.

Or just drop the whole garment enough to place it on a shoulder yoke which will give you also a new neck-line. Or make a hip yoke for the skirt, in several sections if necessary, from pieces cut from worn sleeves or the waist. Or set the old belt between the waist and skirt parts. Or add a false hem of material used elsewhere for trimming.

Sometimes the best way to lengthen is to put all of the material into the skirt, making a yoke and gores or pleats out of the bodice and sleeve parts. Complete with a different blouse or a sweater. Two piece dresses can sometimes be lengthened by sewing the skirt directly to the bottom of the blouse.

Next to needed changes in length, worn armseyes or elbows are perhaps the commonest problems. The new upper bodice is one solution. Another is to replace the sleeve by a new one of contrasting material of the modified dolman or raglan type so the worn parts can be cut away. Or make the dress sleeveless with a bound armseye. This style is useful when there is a matching jacket or one of plain harmonizing material to wear with the dress.

Another possibility when the armholes and neck parts are worn is to cut the bodice down to suspender lines, and wear separate blouses with the dress. This is a youthful style for a slender figure.

There are innumerable ways of making new collars, berthas, scarfs, draped sleeves, cuffs, and other accessories that give an old dress new lines. Even joined piecings can be made decorative if cut on diagonal lines when possible and top-stitched to give a tailored look.

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